UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/527,967	09/26/2005	Johann Ambrosi	740612-193	7462

41972 7590 11/25/2008

LAW OFFICES OF STUART J. FRIEDMAN
28930 RIDGE ROAD
MT. AIRY, MD 21771

EXAMINER	
RIPLEY, JAY R	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3679	

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
11/25/2008	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/527,967	AMBROSI, JOHANN	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	JAY R. RIPLEY	3679	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *20 October 2008*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *6-8 and 10-15* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) *13* is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *6-8,10-12,14 and 15* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *15 March 2005* is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☒ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☒ Other: *Attachments A-E*.

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 6-8 and 10-15 are pending. Claim 13 is withdrawn. Claims 1-5 and 9 have been cancelled.

Election/Restrictions

Claim 13 is withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 03/27/2007.

With respect to the above, the Examiner notes that the Applicant specifically states in page 8, lines 2-4 of the first full paragraph, of the reply filed 10/20/2008, that the subject matter of claim 13 is drawn to the non-elected species shown in original Figure 6.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to because in all of the term "Figur" should be --Figure--.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure

is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. See 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o). Correction of the following is required:

In claim 11, lines 4-5, it is recited "a plurality of integral cams being arranged on the peripheral surface of the cam ring" (emphasis added). There is a lack of antecedent basis for the noted recitation in the original specification. At best, the original specification teaches, as an example, ""The cams arranged on the periphery of the cam ring" in page 2, lines 10-11, of the original disclosure. The Examiner notes that being "on the periphery" of an object is not to be equated with being "on a peripheral surface" of an object.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 11, 14, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In regard to claim 11, it is recited in lines 4-5, "the cam ring having an end face and a peripheral surface, and a plurality of integral cams being arranged on the peripheral surface of the cam ring" (emphasis added). The recitation is inaccurate and/or misdescriptive. The original disclosure teaches that the "cams" are a monolithic constituent element of the "cam ring" (see parts 10 and 14 of the disclosure's original Figure 1 as a non-exhaustive example). However, the phrase "a plurality of integral cams being arranged on the peripheral surface of the cam ring" would lead one to believe that the "cams" are a separate constituent element that is positioned "on" some "peripheral surface of the cam ring" instead of being a unitary part of the cam ring and defining the peripheral surface thereof.

In regard to claim 15, the limitation "the radial dimension of the cams" is recited in line 8. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

As best understood, claims 6-8, 11, 12, 14, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Horimoto (U.S. 5,857,713).

At the outset, it is noted that the ninth embodiment of the invention of Horimoto, as shown in Figures 18-19, is identical to the sixth embodiment, as shown in Figures 9-14, with the exception of the lock mechanism and associated structure (column 13, lines 14-18).

In regard to claim 6, Horimoto discloses in Figure 10 and Figure 19, the figures shown below, a symmetrical hose coupling comprising

a pair of like coupling members (1a and 1b, as observed in Figure 19, below),

each of the coupling members having a cylindrical hose attachment connector (4) and a cam ring integrally formed with the cylindrical hose attachment connector (as observed in Figure 19, below - the Examiner notes that the phrase "integrally formed" embraces united constructions constituting a unitary whole), the connector having at least one outside diameter (the connector of Horimoto has numerous "outside"

diameters, and as such, the Examiner arbitrarily chooses the "outside diameter" directly adjoining the "slots" noted in Horimoto Figure 19, shown below),

the cam ring having a plurality of integral cams (8) arranged on the periphery of the cam ring and projecting from the cam ring (the slots noted in Figure 19, below and in Attachment A, result in the cams projecting radially from the cam ring - the blocking means appears to be positioned by the slots - note that the slots "bottom", radially inner surface, is the outer radial surface of the cam ring), the cams projecting radially beyond the largest outside diameter of the cylindrical hose attachment connector (the largest outside diameter of the cylindrical hose attachment connector" of Horimoto would be at the dotted line indicating the demarcation between "cam ring" and "hose attachment connector" in marked Figure 19, below) for defining the largest outside diameter of the coupling (the Examiner notes that the "blocking means" shown in Figure 19, below, is a part added onto the coupling of Horimoto and, as such, is not a required part of the coupling nor is the "blocking means" a requirement of the instant claim), the cams being hook-shaped in a tangential direction of the cam ring and each having a radial surface area (9 in Figure 10, below) for transmitting an axial force, and the cams of the coupling members engaging into each other during coupling such that the radial surface areas engage behind each other (the coupling members engage each other in the recited fashion as indicated in column 13, lines 19-34).

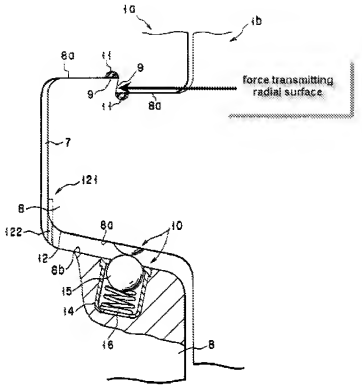


FIG. 10

(Horimoto Figure 10)

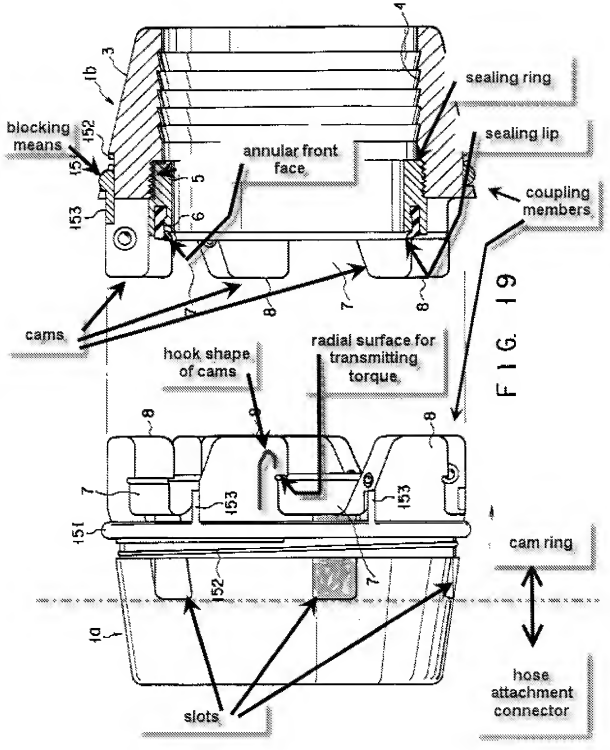
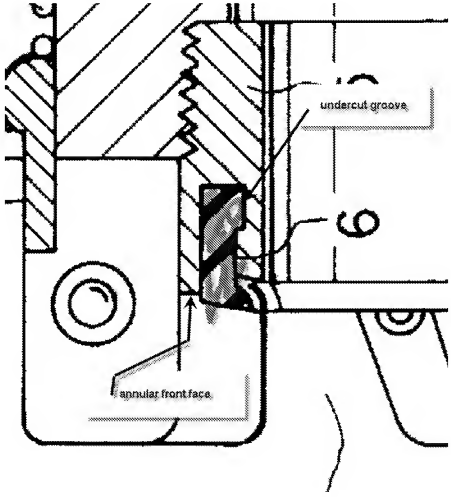


FIG. 19

(Horimoto Figure 19)

In regard to claim 7, Horimoto further discloses that the radial surface areas of the cams are inclined in relation to the tangential direction (column 8, lines 26-30, and observed in Figure 10, above).

In regard to claim 8, Horimoto further discloses, in Figure 19, above, and close-up of Figure 19, below, that the cam ring has an annular front face radially inwardly of the cams and an annular undercut groove is recessed in the annular front face for receiving a shaped sealing ring having a sealing lip which protrudes axially beyond the front face of the cam ring.



(close-up of Horimoto Figure 19)

In regard to claim 11, Horimoto discloses a symmetrical hose coupling comprising a pair of like coupling members(1a and 1b, as observed in Figure 19, see Attachment B), each of the coupling members having a cylindrical hose attachment connector (as observed in Figure 19, see Attachment B) and a cam ring integrally formed with the cylindrical hose attachment connector (as observed on Figure 19, see Attachment B - the Examiner notes that the phrase "integrally formed" is sufficiently broad to embrace united constructions), the connector having an outside diameter (as observed in Figure 19, see Attachment B), the cam ring having an end face (as observed in Figure 19, see Attachment B) and a peripheral surface (as observed in Figure 19, see Attachment B), and a plurality of integral cams being arranged on the peripheral surface of the cam ring (as observed in Figure 19, see Attachment B - the Examiner notes that the term "integral" is sufficiently broad to embrace united constructions) and projecting from the cam ring in a radial direction, the cams projecting radially beyond the outside diameter of the cylindrical hose attachment connector (as observed in Figure 19, see Attachment B), the cams being hook-shaped in a tangential direction of the cam ring and each having a radial surface area (9 in Figure 10, above) for transmitting an axial force, and the cams of the coupling members engaging into each other during coupling such that the radial surface areas engage behind each other (the coupling members engage each other in the recited fashion as indicated in column 13, lines 19-34).

In regard to claim 12, Horimoto discloses a symmetrical hose coupling comprising a pair of like coupling members (1a and 1b, as observed in Figure 19, see Attachment C), each of the coupling members having a cylindrical hose attachment connector (as observed in Figure 19, see Attachment C) and a cam ring integrally formed with the cylindrical hose attachment connector (as observed in Figure 19, see Attachment C - the Examiner notes that the phrase "integrally formed" is sufficiently broad to embrace united constructions), the cam ring having a radially inner surface and a radially outer surface (the respective "cam ring" surfaces noted in as in Figure 19, see Attachment C), wherein the coupling further comprises a plurality of integral cams (as observed in Figure 19, see Attachment C) arranged on the radially outer surface of the cam ring (the "cams" are constituents of the outer surface of the noted "cam ring" and therefore can be said to be "arranged on the radially outer surface of the cam ring" as much as the instant application's "cams"), the cams being hook-shaped (as observed in Figure 19, see Attachment C) in a tangential direction of the cam ring and each having a radially inner surface and a radially outer surface (the respective "cam" surfaces noted in Figure 19, see Attachment C), whereby the cams are arranged with their radially inner surfaces integral with the radially outer surface of the cam ring (every surface of the individual coupling members of Horimoto is "integral" with every other surface, since all the surfaces are part of a single unitary assembly) and each cam having a radial surface area (9 in Figure 10, above) for transmitting an axial force, and the cams of the coupling members engaging into each other during coupling such that the radial surface

areas engage behind each other (the coupling members engage each other in the recited fashion as indicated in column 13, lines 19-34).

In regard to claim 14, Horimoto discloses a symmetrical hose coupling comprising a pair of like coupling members (1a and 1b, as observed in Figure 19, see Attachment D), each of the coupling members having a cylindrical hose attachment connector (as observed in Figure 19, see Attachment D) and a cam ring integrally formed with the cylindrical hose attachment connector (as observed in Figure 19, see Attachment D - the Examiner notes that the phrase "integrally formed" is sufficiently broad to embrace united constructions), the connector having an outside diameter (as observed in Figure 19, see Attachment D), the cam ring having a periphery, the periphery comprising an end surface (as observed in Figure 19, see Attachment D) and an outside circumference (as observed in Figure 19, see Attachment D) and a plurality of integral cams (as observed in Figure 19, see Attachment D) being arranged on the outside circumference of the cam ring (as observed in Figure 19, see Attachment D) and projecting from the outside circumference in a radial direction (as plainly observed in Figure 19, see Attachment D), the cams projecting radially beyond the outside diameter of the cylindrical hose attachment connector (as observed in Figure 19, see Attachment D) for defining the largest outside diameter of the coupling (the Examiner notes that part 151, the "annular lock members" of the invention of Horimoto, is not a part of the claimed invention as to what constitutes a "hose coupling" and therefore is not considered for determination of the "largest outside diameter; only claimed subject

matter is considered to be part of the "coupling"), the cams being hook-shaped (as observed in Figure 19, see attachment D) in a tangential direction of the cam ring and each having a radial surface area (9 in Figure 10, above) for transmitting an axial force, and the cams of the coupling members engaging into each other during coupling such that the radial surface areas engage behind each other (the coupling members engage each other in the recited fashion as indicated in column 13, lines 19-34).

In regard to claim 15, Horimoto discloses a symmetrical hose coupling comprising a pair of like coupling members(1a and 1b, as observed in Figure 19, see Attachment E), each of the coupling members having a cylindrical hose attachment connector (as observed in Figure 19, see Attachment E) and a cam ring integrally formed with the cylindrical hose attachment connector (as observed in Figure 19, see Attachment E - the Examiner notes that the phrase "integrally formed" is sufficiently broad to embrace united constructions), the connector having an outside diameter (the connector of Horimoto has numerous "outside" diameters, and as such, the Examiner arbitrarily chooses the "outside diameter" directly adjoining the "slots" noted in Horimoto Figure 19, see Attachment E), the cam ring having a plurality of integral cams arranged on the periphery of the cam ring (the noted "cams" in Figure 19, see Attachment A, are part of the "periphery" of the noted "cam ring") and projecting from the cam ring in a radial direction (as observed in Figure 19, see Attachment A), the cams projecting radially beyond the outside diameter of the cylindrical hose attachment connector for defining the largest outside diameter of the coupling (the Examiner notes that part 151,

the "annular lock members" of the invention of Horimoto, is not a part of the claimed invention as to what constitutes a "hose coupling" and therefore is not considered for determination of the "largest outside diameter; only claimed subject matter is considered to be part of the "coupling") which is larger than the outside diameter of the connector by the radial dimension of the cams (since no "radial dimension of the cams" is defined in the claim, a "radial dimension of the cams" has been arbitrarily chosen to meet the claim language), the cams being hook-shaped (as observed in Figure 19, see Attachment E) in a tangential direction of the cam ring and each having a radial surface area (9 in Figure 10, above) for transmitting an axial force, and the cams of the coupling members engaging into each other during coupling such that the radial surface areas engage behind each other (the coupling members engage each other in the recited fashion as indicated in column 13, lines 19-34).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Horimoto as applied to claims 6-8, 11, 12, 14, and 15, above.

In regard to claim 10, Horimoto discloses the claimed invention in the embodiment as shown in Figure 19, above, with the exception of a blocking means that

does not project radially beyond the cams. The Examiner notes that Horimoto does disclose that a blocking means (lock claws 153 as observed in Figure 19, above, and as disclosed in column 13, lines 19-34) is provided for locking the pair of coupling members with each other in a coupled condition; however, the disclosed blocking means of the embodiment shown in Figure 19 projects radially beyond the cams. Horimoto teaches an alternative blocking means in Horimoto Figure s 9-14 (taught starting in column 9, paragraph 2, though column 12, first paragraph) which does not project radially beyond the cams. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to simply exchange the blocking means as disclosed by Horimoto in the embodiment shown in Figure 19 with the blocking means as taught by Horimoto in relation to Figures 9-14 since they are functional equivalents.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 10/20/2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

At the outset, the Examiner notes that clam 13 has been withdrawn since the Applicant specifically states in page 8, lines 2-4 of the first full paragraph, of the reply filed 10/20/2008, that the subject matter of claim 13 is drawn to the non-elected species as shown in original Figure 6. Thus, claim 6 is not readable on the elected species.

Concerning the Applicant's discussion in pages 6-7, commencing in the second full paragraph of page 6, of the reply filed 10/20/2008, that the prior art Horimoto (U.S. 5,857,713) fails to disclose the claim 6, lines 6-8, limitations of "said cams projecting radially beyond the only or largest outside diameter of the cylindrical hose attachment connector for defining the largest outside diameter of said coupling", the argument is not persuasive. Since as advanced in the above rejection of claim 1, if one chooses the "outside diameter" directly adjoining the "slots" as noted in Horimoto Figure 19, shown above, the cams of Horimoto do project radially beyond the "largest diameter of the cylindrical hose attachment connector". Further, the Examiner notes that part 151, the "annular lock members" of the invention of Horimoto, is not a part of the claimed invention as to what constitutes a "hose coupling" and therefore is not considered for determination of the "largest outside diameter". Only claimed subject matter is considered to be part of the "coupling" and therefore the outer radial surface of the "cams" of Horimoto do define "the largest outside diameter of said coupling".

Concerning the Applicants discussions in pages 7-9 of the reply filed 10/20/2008, that the prior art of Horimoto (U.S. 5,857,713) fails to disclose the claimed inventions as recited in claims 11, 12, 14, and 15, the arguments are not persuasive. Applicant's arguments are based on the interpretation of the prior art of Horimoto as advanced by the Examiner concerning claim 6 and its dependent claims. However, since claims 11, 12, 14, and 15 are newly presented independent claims, new and different interpretations of the prior art of Horimoto have been advanced to specifically address each newly presented independent claim has been advanced in the 35 U.S.C. § 102

rejections above. In other words, the Examiner has shown how the language of the claims "reads on" the prior art of Horimoto. As such, the Applicant's arguments are not persuasive.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Shaff (U.S. 1,611,286) and Harle (U.S. 5,005,875).

Applicant's amendment (the added recitation of "only or largest" in claim 6, line 6; newly presented claims 11-15) necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JAY R. RIPLEY whose telephone number is (571)272-7535. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 1:30 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on 571-272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Jay R Ripley/
Examiner, Art Unit 3679
19 November 2008

/Daniel P. Stodola/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3679